

Minutes of Friendship Force of Central North Carolina (FFCNC)

www.ffcnc.org

September 30, 2010

Present: Fred and Carol Andresen, Ralph Cauthen, Ray Kiszely, Donna Lambeth, Paul and Marcia Meis, Jim and Barbara North, Marvin Scherl

The Board of Directors of the FFCNC met on Thursday, September 30, at 11:45 a.m. at the Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC, for their regularly scheduled meeting. The minutes of the last meeting on August 5, 2010 were approved as written and previously corrected.

Financial Report: A check for \$500 has been received from FFI for the upcoming Post World Visitors Hosting following the International Conference in Washington, DC. The amount should be \$550 for eleven people. Fred Andresen is to contact FFI headquarters. Marcia will deposit the check into the club's account.

In Judy's absence, the Board reviewed the financial report previously submitted by email. The current checking account balance is \$1914.85 with an additional \$3335.19 in the money market account. The value of the Winston-Salem Foundation account as of 6/30/10 was \$13,909.62. An additional amount of \$4430.64 is on hold for the New Zealand outbound exchange. Beginning in October, Sun Trust will charge a fee of \$10/month for accounts with an average balance below \$1000.

Membership: The first request for membership renewals will be sent by mail with the invitation to the annual membership meeting in October. The membership form will request information on a member's area(s) of interest. Marvin will forward the membership form to Ray. Reminder membership notices will be sent at a later date. At the annual meeting in October, Ray will remind the attendees about membership renewal.

Activities:

Annual Meeting - The annual potluck dinner meeting is planned for October 21st at Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville. Gathering will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner around 6:30 p.m. The theme for the meeting is "Promoting International Understanding through the Arts". David Ford of WFDD's "Triad Arts Up Close" program will interview Todd Drake about his current Muslim self-portrait exhibit. Todd is a photographic artist currently in residence at UNC Chapel Hill.

Holiday Social Event - On Thursday, December 2nd, Donna Lambeth is inviting the membership to her home for a holiday social event. A committee will help plan the event. Donna will provide drinks and members will be asked to bring a hors d'oeuvre. Previous members will also be invited to re-ignite interest in Friendship Force. The party will begin at 5:30 p.m. at 700 Yorkshire Road in Winston-Salem. An RSVP will be on the official invitation.

LEO - The next LEO is scheduled for January 15th at 11:30 a.m. at the Taste of Thai in Greensboro. The program will be the recent outbound exchange to New Zealand.

Outbound Exchange to New Zealand: Jim and Barbara reported that the final deposits of \$86,458 were received in August and deposited. Final payments have been made to the tour director, Geoff Smith, in New Zealand and to the FFI headquarters in Atlanta. The first check to the FFI office was lost and the check had to be reissued and sent by certified mail. The current balance of exchange funds is approximately \$4400. The program from the North Island has now been received and includes group trips to Rotorua and to the Kauri Museum in Matakoho. There have been some last minute changes in the hosting arrangements which have been communicated to those affected. The cultural workshop was held on Saturday, September 11th, from 9 a.m. to noon at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Greensboro with 13 attendees. Booklets were prepared for all ambassadors to include information on the two exchanges, tour, travel tips, and New Zealand culture and weather. The booklets were mailed to those unable to attend the workshop. Margaret Griffin, one of our own members who has traveled to New Zealand on four occasions, was the guest speaker. The program also included a video of the North and South Island. Kit Ravenel was responsible for the refreshments and provided a tasting of New Zealand apples and kiwi fruit, cheeses, sparkling water, teas, etc. Margaret prepared a beautiful traditional pavlova dessert. A donation of \$50 from exchange funds was sent to the church for the use of their facilities. The Auckland/North Shore club has also requested our club donation during the exchange be made to St. John's Ambulance Service. The recent earthquake in Christchurch does not appear to have affected any of the exchange plans. The group of 21 ambassadors is eagerly looking forward to their departure on October 26th.

Post World Conference Hosting: Fred Andresen has agreed to be the ED for the Post World Conference Hosting. The numbers have changed since our last board meeting. The group will now include 2 people from Colorado, 1 from Canada, and 8 from Baku, Azerbaijan. All are expected to arrive in Greensboro on October 18th by train or auto. Most of the group are teachers with five of the Azerbaijanis being English second language teachers. The program is, therefore, being skewed to education. Fred has put together activities to include visits to the Doris Henderson School, Center for Creative Leadership, Wake Forest University, Replacements, Ltd, and Old Salem. An email of the preliminary program was sent to the board members prior to the board meeting. The group is to attend our annual potluck dinner on October 21st. Ralph, Donna, and Ann and Charlie Finch have volunteered for day hosting. Other volunteers are needed for transporting to and from activities between the different towns and for late arrivals on the 18th.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Patti Gilmour is working hard on getting nominees for 2011 officers. There is still no candidate for "President-Elect". Peter has agreed to consider another term. The board discussed the need for new leadership and increased membership involvement. To encourage membership participation, Donna Lambeth suggested the board appoint at least two members-at-large to serve on the board. These positions could be appointed by Marcia as President. The motion was presented and approved by the board. It was suggested the positions for 2011 be filled by persons on

the current Nominating Committee list. Patti will be asked to assist in the calling process if she can. The current proposed slate of officers for 2011 includes President, Marcia Meis; Vice-President, Ray Kiszely; Secretary, Barbara North; Treasurer, Judy Greene. Peter will be nominated for President-Elect from the floor at the annual meeting.

Outgoing Exchange to Canada: Ralph reported a pre-Ottawa trip to New York is being planned by the Florence, SC club. Tentative dates for the Ottawa exchange are Thursday, October 20th to Thursday, October 27th. Ten ambassadors from SC and twenty from FFCNC can be accommodated.

Incoming Exchange from Lima, Peru: An ED for this November exchange is still needed. There has been no response from the newsletter appeal. Members will be invited to join the exchange team at the annual meeting.

Domestic Exchange: The club has been asked to host a domestic exchange from Tucson, AZ in April 2011. The group was originally planning to go to Shelby, NC. The board agreed to accept this exchange. It was suggested new members be asked to host.

Microphone Rental: A local organization for the mentally ill wishes to rent our speaker and microphone for their monthly meetings. A specific rental charge was not decided. However, Peter is to be responsible for making sure the system is charged and working before it is loaned out and when it is returned.

Conference Meeting: The Regional Mid-Atlantic Conference meeting will be held in Virginia on March 25-27, 2011. However, North Carolina is now a part of the Southeastern Conference; we are no longer a part of the Mid-Atlantic Conference. John Wilhelm is our regional representative for the Southeastern Conference which includes North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. John will be invited to attend our annual membership meeting in October.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned until the next Board meeting on December 2, 2010.

Respectfully submitted on December 21, 2010,

Barbara S. North, Secretary